



Foreign Agricultural Service

**GAIN Report**

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## Croatia

### Livestock and Products

#### Beef Situation

**2002**

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**Report Highlights:** Croatia is suffering from a beef shortage that will likely grow over the next several years. Due to BSE and hormone related import bans, and low domestic production, consumer demand is not being met. Demand is forecast to increase by over 20,000 MT in the next 3 years and higher retail prices are likely.

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Vienna [AU1], HR

### Current Situation

Croatia is confronting a beef shortage due to extensive import restrictions and inadequate production. As BSE spread throughout Europe, Croatia banned imports from effected countries. To date the Ministry of Agriculture has banned imports of beef and beef cattle from; Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Greece, Italy, Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxemburg, Netherlands, Germany, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Additionally, there is a ban on beef and veal from the united States, due to a ban on meat produced with growth promotants. Croatia has few options when it comes to meeting their growing beef demand.

Croatia has 25 operational meat-processing plants with a total capacity of 55,000 MT of beef per year. However, they are only producing 18% (9,900 MT) of their industry's demand due to import restrictions as well a shortage of Croatian cattle. Croatia uses milk cows for slaughter employing a one cow/one calf system. It is estimated that Croatia has 170,000 to 190,000 milk cows leaving only 20,000 cows available for slaughter each year.

Table 1: Croatia Imports (1999-2001 average)

	Import Quantity (MT)	Import Value (USD)
<b>Livestock (bovine)</b>	1,265	26,305,081
<b>Fresh or Cooled Beef</b>	553	1,384,799
<b>Frozen Beef</b>	3,086	5,970,002

\*Import document requirements can be found at <http://www.veterinarstvo.hr/import/index.htm>

\*\*Tariff numbers and custom rates can be found at <http://www.carina.hr>

In 2001 beef consumption was between 11 and 12.5 kg per capita in a population of almost 4.5 million people (approximately 55 MT). The Croatian Ministry of Agriculture predicts that by 2005 they will need 64,000 to 76,000MT of beef to satisfy increasing consumer demand.

Croatia exports small quantities of fresh and frozen beef as well at cattle. Beef exports are a part of the broader governmental based development strategy; however, it seems to be worsening the local beef situation.

Table 2: Croatian Exports (1999-2001)

	Export Quantity(MT)	Export Value (USD)
<b>Fresh Beef</b>	663	3,026,900
<b>Frozen Beef</b>	22	75,952
<b>Cattle</b>	n/a	n/a

